



VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

DATA ISSUES BRIEF

March 2009

Forget where you saw something? Visit the [Archive](#) to search among past *Data Issues Briefs*.
Don't know what an acronym means? Look it up [here](#).

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

VIReC UPDATES

1. [VIReC Call for Research Papers: Data Quality in VA Databases](#)

VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

2. [New Data Access Page on NDS Web Site](#)
3. [Patient Care Data Capture](#)

EDUCATION

4. [VIReC Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar Series](#)
5. [VIReC Database and Methods Cyber Seminar Series](#)
6. [NIH Biomedical Translational Research Information System Hosts Seminar Series](#)

PUBLICATIONS

7. [The Commonwealth Fund Connection](#)

VIReC UPDATES

1. VIReC Call for Research Papers: Data Quality in VA Databases

VIReC invites abstracts for potential publication as original research manuscripts in a single-topic issue of *The Journal of Rehabilitation Research & Development (JRRD)*. The issue will focus on data quality in VA and non-VA databases used for research on veterans. Common themes related to data quality include but are not limited to completeness, reliability, accuracy, timeliness, utility for research, and data quality issues arising from using combined VA and non-VA databases. Interested persons should submit an abstract of the proposed manuscript via e-mail to Arika.Owens@va.gov by April 20, 2009. Include "Data Quality Abstract" in the subject line.

Abstracts will be reviewed for thematic relevance and abstract guideline adherence. Authors of selected abstracts will be invited to submit the entire manuscript, per *JRRD* guidelines, available at <http://www.rehab.research.va.gov/jour/jourindx.html>. Submitted manuscripts will undergo the standard peer review process by *JRRD* editors and peer referees as defined by *JRRD* policy.

[Return to Contents](#)

VA DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

2. New Data Access Page on NDS Web Site

The new *Data Access* page on the National Data Systems (NDS) Web site contains information on obtaining authorization to access VA data housed at the Austin Information Technology Center. The Web page includes specific information for the Corporate Data Warehouse; Medical SAS Data Sets, DSS NDEs, VSSC & DSS Web Reports; the Resident Assessment Instrument Minimum Data Set (RAI-MDS) and the Vital Status File. Researchers can find the *Data Access* page on the NDS VA Intranet home page in the *Document Repository* box (address given in the VA Intranet version of this *Data Issues Brief*.)

[Return to Contents](#)

3. Patient Care Data Capture

Researchers concerned about the comprehensiveness of data capture from the Veterans Health Information Systems Technology and Architecture (VistA) and its transmission to the National Patient Care Database (NPCD) will find *VHA Directive 2009-002: Patient Care Data Capture* (January 23, 2009) informative. *Directive 2009-002* institutes Veterans Health Administration (VHA) policy requiring the capture of all outpatient encounters, inpatient appointments in outpatient clinics, and all inpatient billable encounters not captured elsewhere. It expands current policy for patient care data capture by including the capture of all inpatient mental health professional services. The background, definitions, and frequently asked questions regarding patient care data capture, and the instructions for local Information Resources Management (IRM) staff about transmitting workload to NPCD are instructive. Further information is available at http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1821.

[Return to Contents](#)

EDUCATION

4. VIREC Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar Series

Home Telehealth for Veterans with Heart Failure

Bonnie J Wakefield, PhD, RN

March 17, 2009 – 12:00 pm (EST)

Bonnie J Wakefield, PhD, RN, is presenting a cyber seminar on Tuesday, March 17 entitled “Home Telehealth for Veterans with Heart Failure.” Dr. Wakefield is Director, Health Services Research & Development Program, Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital, Columbia, MO, and Associate Professor, Sinclair School of Nursing, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. Participants are welcome to join the cyber seminar on a “first come, first served” basis. VIREC Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminars take place on the third Tuesday of each month at 12 pm (EST) via LiveMeeting. Further information on these seminars is available on VIREC’s VA Internet Website at

<http://www.virec.research.va.gov/EducationResources/Seminars/Cyberseminars.htm>. For questions, contact Joanne Stevens (joanne.stevens@va.gov), VIREC’s Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminar Coordinator.

[Return to Contents](#)

5. VIREC Database and Methods Cyber Seminar Series

Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases, and Research Uses

Denise M Hynes, PhD, MPH, RN

April 6, 2009 – 1:00 pm (EST)

VIREC is reinstituting its Database and Methods Cyber Seminar Series with the objectives of providing an overview of VA data sources most useful for research and highlighting research applications using these data. Monday, April 6, Denise M Hynes, PhD, MPH, RN, will present the first seminar of the series entitled “Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases, and Research Uses.” Dr. Hynes is Center Principal Investigator and Research Career Scientist, VA Information Resource Center (VIREC), Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL. Database and Methods Cyber Seminars take place on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 pm (EST) via LiveMeeting. For questions, contact Melissa Brown (melissa.brown3@va.gov), VIREC’s Database and Methods Cyber Seminar Coordinator. A schedule of upcoming VIREC Database and Methods Cyber Seminars is available on the VIREC Web site at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov/EducationResources/Seminars/Cyberseminars.htm>.

[Return to Contents](#)

6. NIH Biomedical Translational Research Information System Hosts Seminar Series

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Biomedical Translational Research Information System is hosting a series of lectures focused on informatics in biomedical and translational research. The series brings leading figures in the study and use of translational information systems from academic centers across the US and will promote discussion about the future of informatics at the NIH Clinical Center. The next seminar is Tuesday, March 24 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm (EST) and features Adam Wilcox, PhD, Director of the Systems Technology Interfacing Teaching and Community Hospital project at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Further information on attending these seminars go to http://btris.nih.gov/seminar_series.html.

[Return to Contents](#)

PUBLICATIONS

7. The Commonwealth Fund Connection

The *Commonwealth Fund Connection* is a biweekly roundup of recent Commonwealth Fund publications, multimedia and more. The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation that aims to promote a high performing healthcare system that achieves better access, improved quality and greater efficiency—particularly for society’s most vulnerable populations. The Fund carries out this mandate by supporting independent research on health care issues and making grants to improve health care practice and policy. Researchers desiring more information about the Commonwealth Fund can go to <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/>, or subscribe to the Commonwealth Fund Connection by completing the form at http://www.commonwealthfund.org/myprofile/myprofile_edit.htm.

[Return to Contents](#)

- **Data Issues Brief:** a monthly newsletter published by the [VA Information Resource Center \(VIREC\)](#) for the purpose of informing and updating VA researchers on current and pending happenings and changes regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics.
- **Intended Audience:** VA researchers and staff
- **Subscribe:** If this newsletter has been forwarded to you, and you would like to receive it monthly, please send an e-mail to virec@va.gov. To stop receiving Data Issues Briefs, please send an e-mail to virec@va.gov with UNSUBSCRIBE-DIB as the subject line.
- **Internet Citation:** Data Issues Brief. March 2009. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Office of Research and Development, Health Services Research and Development Service, VA Information Resource Center (VIREC), Hines, IL.
<http://www.virec.research.va.gov/References/DataIssuesBrief/2009/DIB-0902er.pdf>
- **Previous Issues:** An archive of this newsletter can be found on VIREC's Website at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov/References/DataIssuesBrief/DIB.htm>.
- **Intranet Versions:** Call the VIREC Help Desk at 708–202–2413.
- **Contact Information:** For comments, suggestions, or newsworthy topics that have not been addressed, call 708–202–2413 or send a message to virec@va.gov.
- **Privacy:** Before subscribing, please review the [VA Privacy Policy](#) on Information Collected from e-mails and Web-forms.